

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

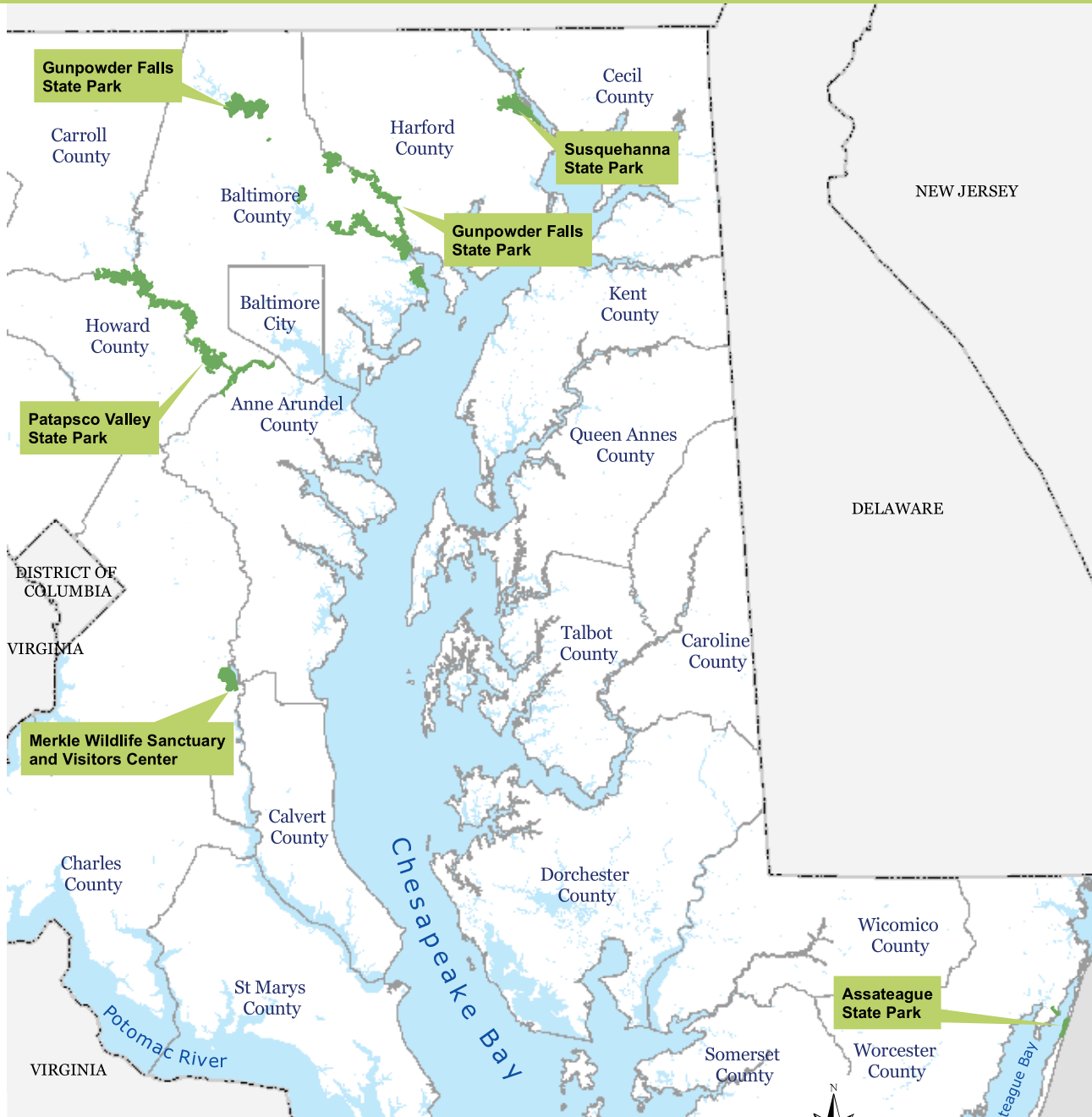
Civic Justice Corps

2009 Report



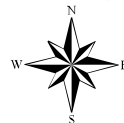
Maryland State Parks

Maryland Civic Justice Corps 2009 Program Sites



Baltimore Metropolitan Council
 2700 Lighthouse Point East, Ste 310
 Baltimore, MD 21224-4774
WWW.BaltoMetro.Org

Prepared by
 Transportation Planning Division
 Projected Coordinate System - NAD 1983 State Plane (ft)
 Data Source - BMC, © NAVTEQ 2009, TIGER/Line®
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Maryland Civic Justice Corps

Conservation Service, Reconnecting Youth and Nature

2009 Report



www.dnr.state.md.us/cjc

About the Maryland Civic Justice Corps

The Maryland Civic Justice Corps (CJC) is a six-week summer program for disadvantaged or at-risk youth ages 14-17, offering job and life skills training while engaging youth in conservation service projects in Maryland State Parks. The program, operated by the Maryland Park Service as an expansion of the Maryland Conservation Corps, seeks to use the power of nature and outdoor experiential activities to enrich the lives of youth. Developing a love of the outdoors in youth fosters an environmental stewardship ethic. It helps youth grow into responsible citizens who make informed decisions about our environment, and the quality of life and health of our communities. It also allows individual youth to draw strength from the natural world which can help them become happy, healthy and successful adults.

The CJC began in 2008 as a special initiative of Governor Martin O'Malley. Since then, 464 youth have participated in a wide variety of habitat and facility restoration projects in Patapsco Valley State Park, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Susquehanna State Park, Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Assateague Island State Park. Some of these projects included painting picnic pavilions, removing old tires from the river, planting trees and building footbridges.

CJC's invaluable partnerships with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, Baltimore Mayor and City Council, Baltimore City Public Schools, the Parks & People Foundation, Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Lower Shore Workforce, Susquehanna Workforce and others help ensure positive outcomes in terms of youth development.



Letter from Peyton and Fred

Welcome,

In tough economic times, it's nice to know that opportunities still exist for youth to be gainfully employed, even as they learn the skills that help ensure their future success in the workplace. Add to this the chance to learn about and interact with nature, and you have a recipe for success.

The Maryland Park Service and the Maryland Conservation Corps have a long history of finding innovative ways to connect youth with the beauty, power and wonder of nature. Through a combination of conservation service and a vibrant member development component, the CJC plays an important role in this effort, providing underserved youth (who often have the least access to nature) with a special opportunity to form meaningful and lasting bonds with the natural world. As a program that supports the objectives of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, CJC not only offers job skills and technical training, it also strives to use outdoor experiential service learning and recreation to expose youth to the many benefits of an active outdoor lifestyle. These can include improved cognitive abilities, physical and emotional well-being, problem-solving and conflict resolution abilities, critical thinking skills and more. And of course, youth participate in the much-needed restoration of public lands, giving them the experience of belonging to something bigger than themselves, while accomplishing real, on-the-ground results in the process. CJC is a place of discovery and excitement. Join us!

Sincerely,

Peyton Taylor, Executive Director
Fred Banks, Program Coordinator

The Civic Justice Corps (CJC) Program

The CJC benefits greatly from the time-honored tradition of a crew-based and place-based structure, which has served its parent corps, the Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC), and other conservation corps around the country in good stead. CJC youth serve in crews of five under the leadership of a Crew Chief. This fosters a team dynamic and provides opportunities for Crew Chiefs to mentor and support their crews. In 2009, Crew Chiefs attended an eight-day training course in addition to passing basic first aid and CPR certification. Crew Chiefs served under a CJC Coach at each park. Coaches, along with park staff and with help from the Parks & People Foundation, provided administrative, logistical and mentoring support. Park staff also provided technical assistance and oversight on service projects.

About 20% of the CJC experience is dedicated to member development. Park Rangers and naturalists provide member development activities every Friday, with a focus on environmental stewardship and learning outdoor recreation skills. Youth are transported to state parks from Baltimore City, Harford County, Prince George’s County and Worcester County. Once at the park, they meet with their Crew Chiefs and are transported to project sites by van. Youth are provided with full uniforms (including boots), as well as breakfast, lunch and snacks, while receiving a \$7.25/hour stipend. The 2009 program started on June 22nd and ended with a graduation ceremony on July 31st.



Mission, Goals and the 4 Essential Pillars of CJC

CJC Mission

To use conservation service as a means to engage at-risk and court-involved youth in meaningful experiences in nature.

CJC Goals

To provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for skills training, empowerment and employment, and restore natural and recreational resources in Maryland State Parks, public lands in general, and the Chesapeake Bay.

CJC Pillars

The Maryland Civic Justice Corps has established four guiding principles or “Essential Pillars” that together define the essence of the program. Through these Pillars, CJC seeks to accomplish the mission and goals for the program:

1. Teach job skills and life skills through conservation service
2. Restore natural and cultural resources in Maryland State Parks and other public lands
3. Develop environmental citizenship through the introduction and application of environmental stewardship principles
4. Build personal connections to nature through outdoor recreation and nature interpretation

Essential Pillar #1:

Teaching Job Skills and Life Skills

CJC members learn basic carpentry, landscaping, painting and other technical skills as they complete restoration projects. They also learn how to use power tools and other equipment. Youth learn fundamental employment skills and principles, such as team work, conflict resolution, and respect for self and others.

Essential Pillar #2:

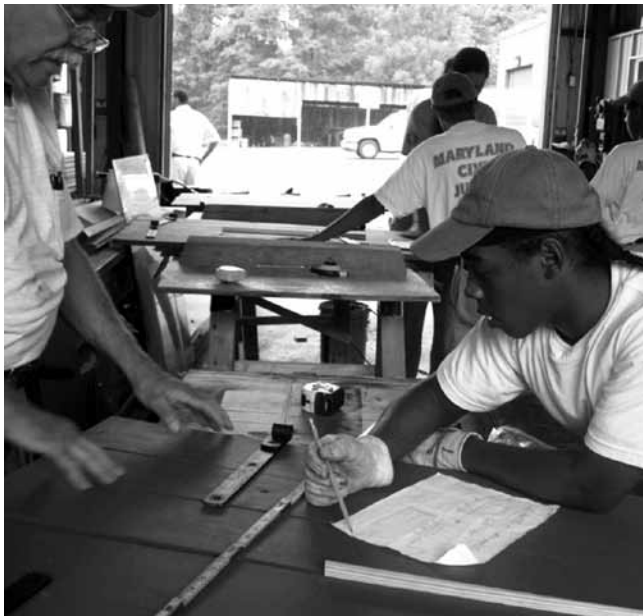
Restoring Natural and Cultural Resources

Youth learn how to plan and measure projects as they build footbridges and pole sheds, to build concrete forms and pour concrete, to plant trees and read landscaping blueprints, to identify and eradicate non-native invasive plants, construct rain gardens, re-roof a nature center, lay patio stone for a garden courtyard, and more.

Essential Pillar #3:

Developing Environmental Citizenship

Understanding how soil erosion, trash, and other pollution affect the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, and the many benefits of planting a tree, as well as understanding how we are all connected to that outcome – these are a few examples of some of the key concepts learned through member participation. When youth can see the consequences of irresponsible actions or unwise practices on the environment, we are one step closer to keeping them engaged as active advocates for healthy communities when they become adults.



Essential Pillar #4:

Building Personal Connections to Nature

When Richard Louv wrote his watershed book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, he sparked an international dialogue among those concerned with the limited opportunities that today’s youth have to interact with the natural world. Natural resource professionals, parents, educators, mental health professionals, physicians and others have come together from all over the world to tackle this challenge. One of their most important goals has been to find ways to connect children with experiences that trigger emotional connections to the outdoors, through a full range of sensory stimulation and active participation. The Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature was created by Governor Martin O’Malley to address this alarming trend and get kids back outside and on the road to a brighter, healthier future. CJC was listed by Governor O’Malley as a primary vehicle for meeting this need with underserved communities. CJC youth are taken on two-night camping excursions to Swallow Falls State Park in Garrett County, Maryland, participate in ropes course activities, and learn recreation skills such as fishing and canoeing that open the door to a lifetime of fun and solace in the outdoors.

“It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get to where we are today, but we have just begun. Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today.”

–President Barack Obama

Patapsco Valley State Park

Patapsco Valley State Park extends along 32 miles of the Patapsco River, encompassing 14,000 acres and five developed recreational areas. In 2009, over 94 Corps Members recruited from Baltimore City were responsible for repairing and developing park recreational areas. Their work included trail maintenance, stream cleanings, water testing, and the repair and upgrading of camp sites and picnic pavilions. Park Manager Robin Melton and her staff developed the projects and provided technical oversight. CJC Coach Holly Bennett supervised CJC Crew Chiefs as the crews worked on a two-year project to design and build a native plant/tree garden, and built a fence to protect the “Lost Lake.” Many youth were able to see first-hand how park visitors enjoyed the improvements and appreciated their hard work and efforts. CJC projects included repairs to structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930’s, making it easy for CJC youth to understand how their own service is the continuation of an honored tradition.

- Coach**
Holly W. Bennett III
- Assistant Coach**
Rian Russell
- Crew Chiefs**
Lauren Benn
Ken Bouchat
Barbara Bridges
Pam Cocol
Courtney Crews
Malcolm Davis
Derek Dias
Sarah Dobson
Glenn Edwards

- Molly Flanagan
Candice Fletcher
Michael Fletcher
Tim Gordon
Lora Hull
Jonathan Jacobs
Kimberly Millner
Lynda Robinson
Rian Russell
- Stipends for youth at Patapsco Valley State Park were provided courtesy of YouthWorks.



Gunpowder Falls State Park

Gunpowder Falls State Park was established in the late 1950’s in an effort to protect the stream valleys of the Big and Little Gunpowder Falls and the Gunpowder River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Today, under the leadership of Park Manager Mike Browning, the park protects nearly 18,000 acres in Harford and Baltimore Counties. CJC crews had the opportunity to build and repair trails, storage sheds, nature centers, and picnic tables. They even rebuilt an old truck engine, learning many basic auto mechanic skills in the process. Crews were also involved in a massive tree planting project and patrolled the beaches and streams for refuse and other wastes harmful to wildlife. Working under the direction of CJC Coach Ian McCullough and a great team of Crew Chiefs, youth had access to mentors from varying areas of expertise including construction, horticulture, biological science, history and much more.

- Coach**
Ian McCullough
- Assistant Coach**
Jacqui Pfarr
- Crew Chiefs**
Darrius Alexander
Joe Andrews
Eric Benjamin
Shannon Byrd
John Clark
Cathlyn Clarke
Rachel Davis
Alex Hathaway
Justin Harbin
Michael Jennings
Jen Mangin

- Tim Martin
Ryan Moody
Vanea Morrell
Troy Myers
Meron Ogans
Jim Perry
Jacqui Pfarr
Shamou Pusey
Erika Puteri
Rebecca Svrjcek
Barb Willig
- Stipends for youth at Gunpowder Falls State Park were provided courtesy of YouthWorks.

Susquehanna State Park

Susquehanna State Park offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities as well as historical significance. Over 20 Corps members worked on projects at a park that is home to some of the most popular mountain biking trails in Maryland, and a river that beckons anglers and boaters alike. Susquehanna State Park also contains a very family friendly campground with traditional campsites and cabins. Under the leadership of Park Manager David Taylor, the park staff worked with crews to improve and build trails, create a water garden and build a butterfly enclosure. It was an exciting summer where youth were frequently approached by mountain bikers in appreciation for completing new trails as well as improving the existing trails. Working with CJC Coach Al Reeves, Harford County youth had the opportunity to help restore the historic Rock Run grist mill, gaining a new appreciation for this gem of a park and the treasured resources it protects.

Coach

Al Reeves

Crew Chiefs

Esther Blastos

Joe Jones

Michael Reeves

Stipends for youth and other program costs at Susquehanna State Park were provided courtesy of the Susquehanna Workforce Network.



Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary

Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary is the only wildlife sanctuary operated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. It is the wintering ground for several thousand Canada geese, the largest concentration on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Park Manager Ken Hartman helped his staff prepare projects for over 20 Corps members on this 400 acre property. The Merkle crews improved trails and went on wildlife rescue exhibitions and removed nearly one ton of refuse from the Potomac River and many invasive plants from the banks of the river. It was an eye-opening summer for these Prince George's County youth as they pulled crawfish out of their pockets and asked if they could keep them as pets. Many Corps members, who lived just minutes from the sanctuary, were often shocked at how close this area was to their homes and that they had never been there before CJC. CJC Coach Josh Holt provided structure and discipline, along with kindness and understanding, to help youth achieve their full potential.

Coach

Josh Holt

Crew Chiefs

Bevan Frasier

Elon Mitchell

Miguel Mouton

Merkle Youth Stipends were paid by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

Assateague Island State Park

Assateague State Park is Maryland’s only ocean park. It is located on Assateague Island, a barrier island bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by Sinepuxent Bay. Park Manager Mike Riley embraced the chance to work with over 20 Corps members from Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore. Under the leadership of CJC Coach Lisa Hoeben, youth waded in over two miles of ocean beaches, cleaning and pulling refuse in waters that offer swimming, beachcombing, sunbathing, surfing and fishing. Youth also repaired bridges and docks while getting a birds eye view of Assateague’s wild horse population. The unique natural areas of Assateague provided youth with special opportunities to explore marine wildlife, travel water trails and spend lots of time enjoying and learning about beach life and how important stewardship is to areas surrounded by water. What better place than Assateague to illustrate the point that, if we want the next generation to care about the health of our planet, they must first have a personal connection to nature – the kind that can only come from experience.

Coach

Lisa Hoeben

Crew Chiefs

- Hubert Blades
- Russ Dennis
- Tierra Johnson
- BJ Johnson

Stipends for youth and other program costs at Assateague were provided courtesy of the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance.



“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.”

–Jimmy Carter

“[What is the] extinction of a condor to a child who has never seen a wren?”

–Naturalist Robert Michael Pyle

2009 CJC Program News

1. CJC 2009 branched out to include programs in Harford and Prince George’s Counties, employing at-risk youth from these communities. New partners in these efforts include: The Harford County Sheriff’s Office, Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, Harford County Public Schools, Harford County Boys to Men program, and the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission.
2. The Maryland Park Service’s Outdoor Discovery staff joined forces with CJC to provide new and improved member youth recreational and development opportunities.
3. The Parks & People Foundation educators provided environmental literacy enrichment through a new community service learning component that helped to restore parks and green space in the Corps members’ sending communities.
4. Crew sizes were reduced to allow more opportunity to mentor members.
5. Crew Chiefs attended two dynamic weekend training retreats, where they camped in tents and learned how to take advantage of “teachable moments” in a conservation service environment, anti-bullying and conflict resolution techniques, how to paddle a canoe and safely drive a 15-passenger van.



6. CJC placed a heavy emphasis on planting trees, allowing youth to have meaningful participation in Governor O’Malley’s Smart, Green and Growing initiative, which includes a “Marylanders Grow Trees” challenge to plant 1 million trees by the year 2011.
7. The Maryland Teen Ranger program was launched, providing youth with an engaging after-school activity that continues the commitment to youth development and service year-round.
8. The CJC program leveraged the resources of environmental organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Trust, which provided a grant that funded a major tree-planting project at the Hammerman area of Gunpowder Falls State Park.

Real Results

The CJC works toward the dual goals of youth development and the restoration of public lands and the Chesapeake Bay.

Restoration of Public Lands and the Chesapeake Bay

During the six-week summer program, CJC youth completed many projects on public lands with an estimated value of more than \$872,000 in improvements coming directly back to Maryland State Parks.

- 1 historic canal lock restored
- 776 trees planted
- 1 camper recycling center built
- 5 trail head parking lots improved
- 19 disc golf tees built
- 69 picnic tables built
- 300 pounds of scrap metal recycled
- 10,267 yards of trail repaired
- 3 miles of park boundary recovered
- 194 campsites upgraded
- 2,000 feet of dune fencing repaired
- 1 brick stairway repaired
- Over 4 tons of trash removed from Maryland waterways
- Over 3,000 pounds of trash removed from public lands
- 2 Baywise gardens planted
- 3,000 feet of boat dock restored
- 1 park truck engine rebuilt
- 150 dock pilings recapped
- 30 picnic tables refurbished
- 1 bee garden planted
- 23 fire rings installed
- 1 endangered butterfly enclosure built
- 1 Scales and Tales aviary refurbished



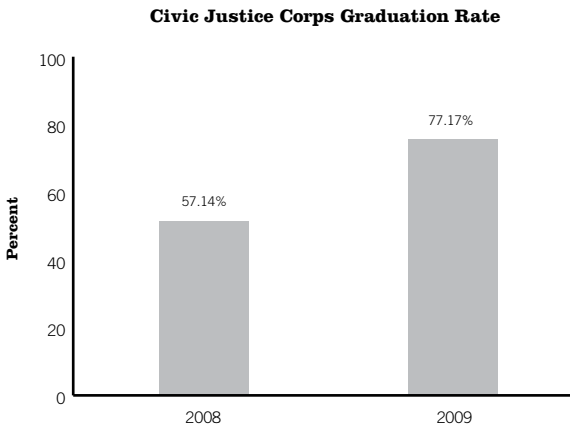
- 2,350 feet of fencing installed
- 3 footbridges built
- 20 park benches built
- 5 acres of invasive species removed
- 360 square feet of shoreline restored
- 8 floating wetland gardens installed
- 731 native perennials planted
- 2 ADA trails completed
- 1 equestrian compost bin built
- 2 rain gardens planted
- 11 rain barrels installed
- 6 horseshoe pits rebuilt
- 1 historic springhouse restored
- 20 new shutters built for historic grist mill
- 6,380 yards of new trail constructed
- 1 marsh observation deck built
- 20 park buildings painted
- 1 garden trellis constructed
- 50 park signs installed
- 12,000 pounds of lumber recycled
- 8 bat boxes built and installed
- 1 youth group camping area refurbished
- Over 200 bags of invasive plant material removed
- 1 wildlife habitat garden planted
- 6,000 pounds of rip-rap placed
- 1 historic train station refurbished
- 18 dead and dangerous trees removed
- 6 miles of stream bank cleaned up

Youth Development

The Parks & People Foundation measured the success of the 2009 CJC program using administration records and surveys completed by crewmembers and crew chiefs before the program year started and when it concluded. The results below suggest that participation in the program results in positive outcomes for CJC youth by helping them acquire the knowledge, attitudes, aspirations and habits to make a successful transition from school to the world of work and adult life.

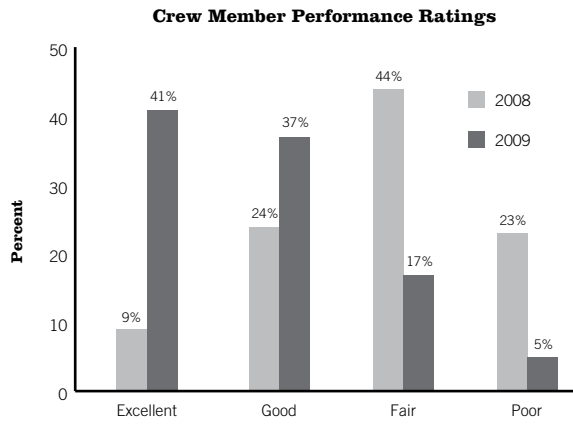
Retention & Successful Completion of Program

Program retention is a key indicator of a worthwhile investment. In an effort to increase retention rates over the 2008 Program Year, CJC reduced team sizes from a maximum of 10 members to 5, hired logistics specialists through an NGO partner to support and reinforce program goals and provided additional community service learning and outdoor recreational activities. The adjustments were successful and increased the retention rate from 57% in 2008 to 77.17% in 2009 and are above the national average of 72.2% retention for CJC education and job placements.



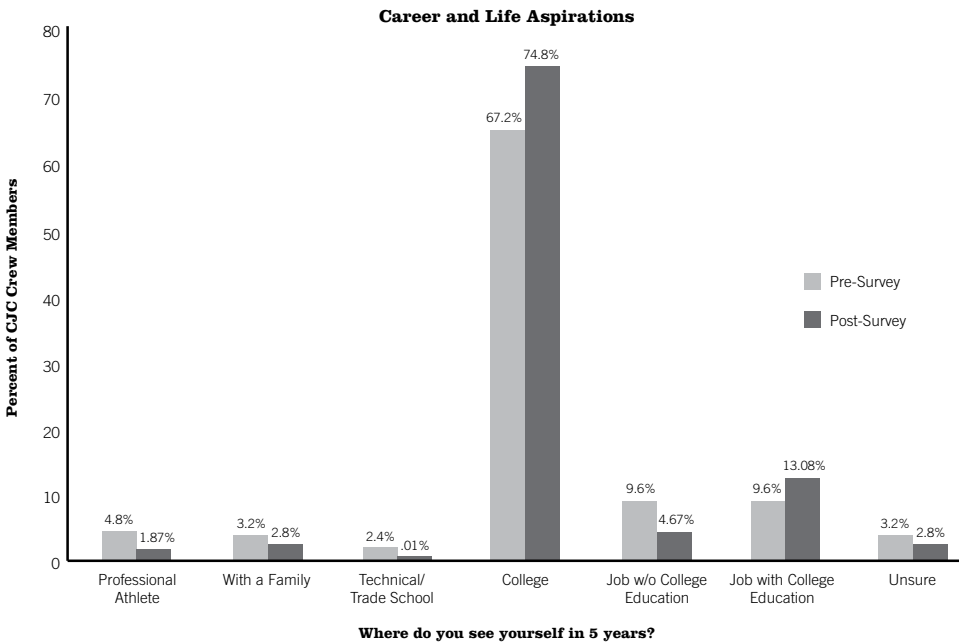
Job Performance

CJC youth learn valuable job skills that help to ensure their future success in the workplace. They learn to follow directions, wear a uniform properly and with pride, resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully, and accept constructive feedback through a performance evaluation process. Working outdoors is also an effective way to help youth develop flexibility and a willingness to adapt to the changing needs of the workplace. Performance evaluations measured these and other dimensions. It can be noted that there was a drastic reduction in the percentage of youth who received a poor rating in 2008, shrinking from 22% to only 5%. In fact, a continuing increase in the percentage of youth indicates that nearly 80% received a score of good or excellent in 2009 which suggests that program enhancements benefited the youth.



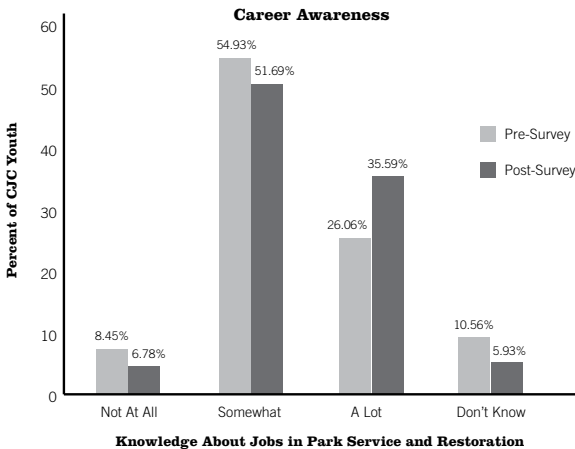
Educational and Career Aspirations

Moderate and low income youth often limit their career aspirations because they lack knowledge of well-paying occupations. They also lack opportunities for the academic achievement necessary to attain those occupations. Participation in CJC appears to have broadened the participants’ awareness of careers and increased desire to pursue post-secondary education or job training. In both surveys, participants were asked, “Where do you see yourself in 5 years?” The results from the survey suggest by the end of the program more than 87% believed that they would complete college. Interestingly, when we compare the pre and post survey more closely we see that the percentage of member choosing “professional sports” shrank from 4.80 percent to 1.85 percent, and an interest in pursuing a job not requiring a college education shrank by 50%, 9.60 percent to 4.83 percent (see below).



Awareness of Careers with the Maryland Park Service

In addition to increasing crew members educational and career aspirations, participation in CJC increased members’ interest in a broader range of careers and there was a specific increase in the awareness of job opportunities with the Maryland Park Service by nearly 10%. The experience cut the number of youth who did not know anything about employment on park management and restoration in half.



**What our partners
have to say about CJC:**

“The Civic Justice Corps is truly the wave of the future. This program combines leadership and skill development along with experiential learning. The CJC program teaches teens how to work. The CJC has a higher completion rate than the young people employed in the traditional summer work program.

This is an amazing partnership — everyone is bringing major contributions and the outcome is the same for everyone: youth development.”

— Adriane Clutter, Youth Services Specialist
The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Department of Parks & Recreation

“The Civic Justice Corps was the epitome of what a meaningful and rigorous summer work experience should be. The youth could see the fruits of their labor at the end of the summer and I believe the majority thought that this time was well spent and...also opened the door to future career options.”

— Alice Cole, Career Development Project
Services Director, YouthWorks



“The Parks & People Foundation is honored to work in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources to implement Maryland’s Civic Justice Corps program. Taking young people from around the State who are at-risk and connecting them to nature in Maryland’s State Parks, teaching them jobs skills and helping them to restore our natural resources is important work that benefits not only those enrolled in the program but every citizen in Maryland.”

— Jaqueline M. Carrera, CEO & President,
Parks & People Foundation

“It has always been my belief that we spend inadequate resources on our youth. CJC is a step in the right direction. What CJC offers is crime prevention in its purest form. CJC provided something many of our young people do not have - an opportunity to learn about life. The rewards to the youth who participated have more than prepared them to face the challenges that will confront them in their futures. Every dollar spent in this program will come back to reward all of us many times over.”

— Sheriff L. Jesse Bane, Harford County Maryland

Graduation Day

On July 31, 2009, 202 CJC graduates gathered under the lofty trusses of the historic North Point State Park Trolley Barn for a ceremony to recognize and honor their achievements. Over 500 guests, including Corps members’ families, joined the festivities. Tears and laughter accompanied the viewing of a video that captured special moments during the six-week program, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown addressed the CJC graduates with words of gratitude for their service and inspiration for their future.



“I am a teller of stories and therefore an optimist, a believer in the ethical bend of the human heart, a believer in the mind’s disgust with fraud and its appetite for truth, a believer in the ferocity of beauty. So, from my point of view, which is that of a storyteller, I see your life as already artful, waiting, just waiting and ready for you to make it art.”
— Toni Morrison

2009 Civic Justice Corps Graduates

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Anecha Adkins | Devin Green | Ajee Payden |
| Brandon Alston | Rod Greene | Deidra Payne |
| Miquell Alston | Marcus Harcum | Priscilla Pearson |
| Breyanna Anderson | Carl Heartfield | Sarah Piazza |
| Brienna Ash | Ayana Hicks | Quanisha Pinkney |
| Nakyeya Austin | Tierra Hickson | Randolph Prince |
| Dawn Averett | Tyeisha Higgins | Dashawn Pringle |
| Oluwatoyin Ayiloge | Dominique Hill | Toni Purcell |
| Eric Bailey II | Haley Hogans | Nasha Queen |
| Desmond Baker | Argenae Howell | Sierra Ray |
| Janel Baker | Toya Imes | Tiffany Reid |
| Latarsha Baker | Travis Jacks | Alia Richardson |
| Armanda Banks | Jonathan Jenkins | Diamond Robeson |
| Myarntz Bardney | April Jennings | Devin Rodgers |
| Dimanche Boykin | Jabrail Johnson | Jeffrey Rollins |
| Marvin Boykins, Jr. | Davon Jones | Shakil Ross |
| Brittney Grey Brooks | Kwameka Jones | Shakilo Ross |
| Dierra Brown | Sharae Jones | Ryan Russell |
| Kyana Bunch | Shawdae Jones | Marcus Sanford-Griffin |
| Tracy Byers | Vernon Bey-Jones | Jerrico Saunders |
| Kintaro Campbell | Darius Jordan | Chavette Shaw |
| Tamal Campbell | Marquita Lane | Shamia Smith |
| Katrell Carpenter | Robert Lane | Ebony Somerville |
| Simone Carrington | Brittany Leavy | Shantel Spriggs |
| Calvin Coles | Khadijah Lee-Winston | Taylor Street |
| Jabari Dailey | Ashley Lewis | Lashae Taylor |
| Artemus Davis | Daechann Long | Shantay Taylor |
| Malcolm Deschamps | Kenneth Lyons | Raven Thompson |
| Willie Eggleston III | Michael Mack | Takihrah Thompson |
| Tamaera Emmons | Crystal Martin | Sean Tune |
| LaShawn Eubanks | Keonn Matthews | Morcia Turner |
| Darrell Fleet | Brandon Mayne | Diamond Wade |
| Christina Fowler | Asia McBride | Janai Walker |
| Sashe Fraling | Desimine McBride | Cerell Wheeler |
| Shamira Frink | Tiffany McKnight | Erica White |
| Destiny Fulton | Bianca McNair | Jamal Wiggins |
| Tyonda Gilliam | Elias Moultrie | Mariah Williams |
| Safina Goden | Whitney Norris | Jasmine Wilson |
| Minicka Goodson | Steven Norris | Montoya Winchester |
| Leroy Graves, Jr. | Miles Norris | Khadeja Witherspoon-Bey |
| Alphonso Green | Danesha Northan | Silence Zantt |
| Peter Green | Ogeghukwu Nwanegwo | |

Staff Roster



Nita Settina
Superintendent, Maryland Park Service; with DNR since 1995; BA in Arts and Film from Penn State University; MS in Parks, Recreation and Resource Management from Frostburg State University



Peyton Taylor
Executive Director, Conservation Corps and Interpretation, Maryland Park Service; BS in Natural Resource Management, University of Maryland College Park; Master of Liberal Arts, Johns Hopkins University; 23 years and counting as State Park Ranger in Maryland State Parks



Fred Banks
Program Coordinator; BS in Psychology, Morgan State University; MS in Sociology, Morgan State University; 14 years in program monitoring and evaluation



Shea Niemann
Park Ranger and Enrichment Coordinator for the Civic Justice Corps program with the Maryland Park Service since 2006.



Cindy Hawkins
Administrative Specialist and working with Youth Programs with the Maryland Park Service since 1994.

Natural Resources Police / CJC Liaisons
Junior Johnson
Melissa Scarborough

Camp Specialists
Kala Barnes Anne Gilbert
Eleanor Cassilly Paul Shepherd
Daniel Fryberger Jay Szmbroski
Debroah Gault Michael Toller

Gunpowder Naturalists
Alyssa Henn Megan Saxe
Glynnis O'Donnell Eric Smith

Patapsco Naturalists
David Bitler
Caitlin Murphy
Lindsay Schroader

2009 CJC Crew Chiefs and Coaches



To Our Graduates

You have learned much in six weeks, from job skills such as carpentry, engine repair and landscaping to how to paddle a canoe and pitch a tent. You have learned about many of the personal responsibilities that come with holding a job and earning a paycheck.

All of these things play important roles in your journey to becoming happy, healthy, successful adults. We are so proud of each of you! It is our sincerest wish that you feel that same sense of pride and satisfaction in yourself.

We hope that your time spent outdoors, working and learning with Crew Chiefs, coaches, park rangers, naturalists and with each other, has inspired you to return to us in the future, whether for work or play. But mostly, we wish you the peace of knowing you've done well, and that you can be anything and do anything you put your mind to.

Ranger Peyton Taylor
Executive Director
Maryland Civic Justice Corps



We'd like to thank our partners!

- **YouthWorks**
- **Parks & People Foundation**
- **Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation**
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust**
- **State Highway Administration**
- **Macy's Department Stores**
- **Susquehanna Workforce Network**
- **Lower Shore Workforce Alliance**
- **Department of Juvenile Services**
- **Worcester County Public Schools**
- **Harford County Sheriff's Office**
- **Baltimore City Public Schools**
- **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**

These partners, along with Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Economic Development, the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, the Baltimore City Public School System, NorthBay Adventure Camp, and many others have played key roles in ensuring a memorable experience for our deserving graduates. We also acknowledge the parents, guardians and adult mentors whose support made this program possible.



“Our new Civic Justice Corps will create paid summer jobs and meaningful outdoor experiences for at-risk youth, while contributing to the preservation and restoration of our state parks. These young people will not only learn the value and benefits of service and find a connection with nature; they will also develop job skills to prepare them for our increasingly green economy.”

— Governor Martin O'Malley

